The Columbus Dispatch

$1.50 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017 DISPATCH.COM

Library details evictions / B1

Girls basketball season previewed / D1, 6-10

Rivalry game fires up even non-Ohioans / D1

Kroger
3/$5
WITH CARD
Kroger Cheese
6-8 oz or Kroger Natural Slices, 6 oz; Select Varieties

High: 37 Low: 26
Details on Page B12

The zero hours

Crew SC supporters hold scarves and wave flags and placards to support their team Tuesday night in Mapfre Stadium. The Crew played to a scoreless draw against Toronto FC in the MLS Eastern Conference final. [ADAM CAIRNS/DISPATCH]

Fans of imperiled Crew fill stadium, watch 0-0 playoff tie

By Rob Oller
The Columbus Dispatch

As a Tuesday night sellout crowd at Mapfre Stadium cheered the team and jeered its owner, Crew SC worked on Plan B in the #SaveTheCrew movement.

Keep winning.

The plan hit a snag when the Crew tied Toronto FC 0-0 before 21,289 vocal and banner-waving fans in the first leg of the Eastern Conference final. The second and deciding leg will be played Nov. 29 in Toronto, where Toronto FC set a Major League Soccer record for home points in a season (42).

The Crew ran into a team that played not to lose. And it worked.

The Crew, playing for the first time in 16 days, could not penetrate Toronto FC's sagging defense and failed to take advantage of several juicy scoring chances in the final five minutes.

As for Plan A, if the bulk of #SaveTheCrew consists of volunteers protesting the possibility of Precourt Sports Ventures moving the franchise to Austin, Texas, after the 2018 season — ending the Arch City's 23-year relationship with the Black and Gold — then the Massive's backup plan is for the Crew to win the MLS Cup.

By doing so, the theory goes, team investor-operator Anthony

SEE PLAYOFF, A7

Kridler's stadium idea quickly fizzles

By Mark Ferenchik, Rick Rouan and Kimball Perry
The Columbus Dispatch

The Abbott property in Downtown Columbus is off the table as a possible site for a new Columbus Crew stadium — not that it was ever really on the table.

"I've heard through a third party that Abbott is unable to consider this proposal because of their need for that site to (serve) a very valuable service to their plant," said Doug Kridler, president and CEO of the Columbus Foundation, who floated a series of ideas Monday to try to prevent Crew SC from moving to Austin, Texas, after the 2018 season.

SEE KRIDLER, A6

FCC ACTION

Internet providers may get free rein

By Cecilia Kang
The New York Times

The Federal Communications Commission announced Tuesday that it plans to dismantle landmark regulations that ensure equal access to the internet, clearing the way for companies to charge more and block access to some websites.

The proposal, put forward by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, is a sweeping repeal of rules put in place by the Obama administration. The rules

SEE FCC, A10

LATEST STUDY / OHIO

Preventable deaths may rise dramatically

By Catherine Candisky
The Columbus Dispatch

Fueled largely by the opioid epidemic, Ohio's drug, alcohol and suicide death rate could soar by 47 percent in the coming decade.

A study released Tuesday projects Ohio's mortality rate from those three causes will total nearly 75 per 100,000 deaths — 11th-highest in the nation — by 2025, up from

SEE DEATHS, A7

7 80939 00004 2